

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Number: OR-104-02-06

BLM Office: Swiftwater RA, Roseburg District

Proposed Action Title: **Susan Creek Campground Host Site**

Location of Proposed Action: Section 23, T.26S., R.2W.; W.M. (Existing Susan Creek Campground)

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan:

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plans:

Name of Plan: Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resources Management Plan
(ROD/RMP)

Date Approved: June 2, 1995

Name of Plan: North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River Plan

Date Approved: July 1992

These plans have been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5.

Need for Proposed Action

This site has been a public campground either under lease to the State of Oregon or BLM operation for at least forty years. The Susan Creek Campground was re-constructed in 1993 and re-opened to the public in 1994. The campground host site was developed in the central part of the campground (Site #15) across from the restroom/showers (see map). The fee box/information board, pay phone, and the firewood station were also set in front of the host site to provide for 'one stop shopping'. The present host location in a high use area encourages excessive visits by campers to the host site, resulting in excessive demands placed on the host's time and privacy.

Susan Creek is the only campground in the Roseburg area that has a camp-host site in the middle of the campground. The U.S. Forest Service, Douglas County Parks, and other BLM campgrounds locate their hosts or caretakers at the entrance of the facility. This entry setting offers more privacy and less routine camper interaction. The entrance area provides a distance buffer between the campers and the host. The fee area, the firewood, and the phone are designed to be self service.

Purpose of Action

The purpose of the action described in this EA is to move the campground host site to a location that would reduce the interaction with campers and improve their privacy. By re-locating the campground host site near the entrance of the campground, they would be located outside the hub of camping activity.

Description of Proposed Action

The Swiftwater Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to reconstruct and re-align site # 1 at Susan Creek Campground to accommodate trailers and RV vehicles. The site is currently designed for tent camping with a 30 foot asphalt spur. The re-alignment would shift the spur orientation from southwest/northeast to east /west. The re-alignment would increase the overall length to 50 feet, the width to 20 feet, the capacity to four vehicles and allow for installation of a septic holding tank. An area of approximately 20 x 30 feet x 8" inches deep of previously un-disturbed soil would be cleared with the this re-alignment. Services lines would be extended from the existing host site. Power, water, phone and satellite television lines would be buried up to 36 inches underground between site 15 and site one. A covered shelter may be built in the future to provide protection from the weather.

Two other alternatives were considered but eliminated

1. New site construction - A new campsite would have been constructed approximately 100 feet north of site one on the east side of the entrance road. This site was considered because it required very little ground leveling and no tree removal. After consulting with the Roseburg BLM District Archeologist, a determination was made that this site location area was located on a terrace that had received a significant amount of use by Native Americans in the past. Due to the cost and time required to contract data recovery, this area was dropped from further consideration.
2. Modification of site #3 - Site #3 would have been re-constructed to meet the full hookup service requirements of the campground host site. The site was eliminated from consideration because; there is not enough site screening between site two and three, the area was too small for a full service site, and the river camping site is popular with the camping public.

Affected Environment

The FSEIS describes the affected environment for this province on page 3&4-19. The Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS, pp. 3-3 through 3-71) provides a detailed description of BLM administered lands on the Roseburg District. This project is within the existing developed area of the Susan Creek Campground. The setting is within late-successional (old growth) forest that was developed into a campground.

Special Status or Survey and Manage plants and animals were not surveyed for in the project area because the proposed action is maintenance of an existing structure (pg. 22, S&G, *Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*).

Cultural - The project is located within a prehistoric archaeological site, 35DO383. The site was evaluated in 1991 and was found to be significant and eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. A mitigation plan was developed and implemented in 1992 as a result of the proposed improvements to the restroom facilities. The plan called for the excavation of 32 cubic meters of fill in order to mitigate the impending impacts. Ultimately, nearly 48 cubic meters of fill were excavated in 1992, providing a broader assessment of the site's information potential.

In March, 2002 a small evaluation/mitigation excavation was conducted within the proposed new host site project area. Two units, with a total volume of 1.2 cubic meters of fill, were excavated. The volume approximates a 10% sample of the proposed disturbance. The results from these units were quite similar to the 1992 results. The debitage and tool densities were slightly less than the 1992 results. No features, floral remains, faunal remains, or culturally associated charcoal samples were recovered during the 2002 work.

Hydrology - The construction site is generally level with a very slight slope towards the North Umpqua River which is approximately 150 feet away.

Wildlife - There is one known northern spotted owl (NSO) site (South Susan; IDNO #4018) within 1.2 miles (provincial radius) but there are no known spotted owls sites within 0.25 miles (disturbance zone) of the project area. The project is not within a 100 ac. owl core area. This project is located within a Critical Habitat Unit (CHU OR-27) for the NSO. Critical Habitat is a specific geographical area specified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Recovery Plans as containing habitat essential for the conservation of a Threatened and Endangered species. The remaining T&E species do not occur in the project area. The only Survey & Manage species whose habitat is present within the project area is the red tree vole (RTV). The project area is in an existing facility and the proposed improvements to this facility (including the removal of three to four trees) do not constitute a substantial negative impact to RTVs or their habitat.

Fisheries - The proposed project is within the Riparian Reserve of the north bank of the North Umpqua River approximately 150 feet from the river with a paved road between the site and the river. The project site is located on level ground dominated by ground vegetation (salal) and conifers (Douglas Fir). The North Umpqua River is habitat for the Federally listed coho salmon (Threatened) and steelhead trout (Candidate).

Soils - The effected sites occur on a nearly level river terrace that has well drained, ashy soils with sandy loam textures (Crater Lake Series).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

1. Description of Potential Impacts

Analysis considers the direct impacts (effects caused by the action and occurring at the same place and time), indirect impacts (effects caused by the action but occurring later in time and farther removed in distance) and cumulative impacts (effects of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions) on the resource values.

Botany - Construction would result in an indirect effect through the potential to spread noxious weed infestation into the proposed project area. Exposed soil is highly preferred by noxious weeds and invasive nonnative species. Noxious and invasive weed seeds are often introduced from seeds carried into the area by construction equipment.

Fisheries - No direct or indirect effects to fisheries habitat are expected from the proposed project. Approximately 0.01 acres of ground disturbing activities would occur inside of Riparian Reserves during the dry season without the potential to transmit sediment or effects to an active stream channel. The minor removal of the understory trees would not result in any increase in runoff or affect shading on the river channel.

Hydrology - No direct or indirect effects to hydrology are expected.

Cultural Resources - Because the 2002 excavations failed to reveal the potential for providing new information important to understanding local prehistory, the proposed action will have No Effect on the cultural resources at 35DO383.

Soils - About 0.015 acres of productive terrace soils would be irretrievably lost with expansion of camp site #1.

Wildlife - Direct effects consists of mortality to species or habitat removal at the time of action. Indirect effects include disturbance to species that might occur as a result of the action alternative, later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. There is no effect to either the NSO or RTVs since the proposed improvements to this facility (including the removal of three to four trees) will not change the character of the stand or the ability of the stand to function as it does currently for both species. There are no further anticipated direct effects or indirect effects to other special status wildlife species within the project area.

Cumulative Impacts Analysis -The irretrievable loss of approximately 1600 sq. ft. (<.04 ac.) of forest floor habitat would result from this action. This would result in loss of potential botanical diversity plus an increase in soil compaction.

2. Critical Elements of the Human Environment

"Critical Elements of the Human Environment" is a list of elements specified in BLM Handbook H-1790-1 that must be considered in all EA's. These are elements of the human environment subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order. These elements have been analyzed for potential effects and are as follows:

	<u>Potentially Affected</u>	
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Air Quality	X	
ACEC	X	
Cultural Resources		X
Environmental Justice	X	
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	X	
Floodplains	X	
Invasive and Nonnative Species		X
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns	X	
T & E Species		X
Waste, Hazardous/Solid	X	
Water Quality, Drinking / Ground	X	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Wild and Scenic Rivers		X
Wilderness	X	

Cultural Resources - Adverse impacts are not expected. Additional excavation would yield only redundant information and would not alter the interpretation of the site's chronology and function.

Invasive and Nonnative Species - Construction could result in an increased potential to spread noxious weed infestation into the proposed project area through exposed soil and introduction from seeds carried into the area by construction equipment.

T & E Species - The project area is in an existing facility and the proposed improvements to this facility (including the removal of three to four under-story trees) would not change the character of the stand or the ability of the stand to function as dispersal habitat for the NSO. In addition, the area proposed to be improved is small (approximately 0.03 acres [1,440ft²]) and is an existing paved campsite. The regular use of the Susan Creek campground by the public limits the probability that spotted owls will use the due to the regular human activity. The project, although within Riparian Reserve, is not expected to directly or indirectly affect the coho salmon or steelhead trout.

Wetlands/Riparian Zones - Construction activities would take place within the Riparian Reserve for the North Umpqua River.

Wild and Scenic Rivers - The North Umpqua River is designated as a recreational river under the National Wild and Scenic River System. The proposed action is taking place within an established campground along the North Umpqua River and therefore would not degrade the wild and scenic character of the river.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

1. **Cultural Resources** - Stipulations would be placed in the contract to halt operations and evaluate the appropriate type of mitigation needed to provide adequate protection if significant cultural values, such as features or human remains, are found during the implementation of the proposed action.
2. **Invasive and Nonnative Species** - Stipulations would be incorporated into the construction contract to prevent and/or control the spread of noxious weeds. This would include the cleaning of construction equipment prior to entry on BLM lands (BLM Manual 9015 - Integrated Weed Management).
3. **T & E Species** - If, during implementation of the proposed action, any Special Status (threatened or endangered, proposed threatened or endangered, candidate, State listed, Bureau sensitive or Bureau assessment) species are found, evaluation for the appropriate type of mitigation needed for each species would be done. Stipulations would be placed in the contract to halt operations if any of these Special Status plants or animals are found to allow time to determine adequate protective measures before operations could resume.

4. **Wetlands/Riparian Zones** - Stipulations would be incorporated into the construction contract to limit construction activities to dry weather. In addition, sediment control structures, would be used during construction activity. Disturbed soil would be seeded and/or mulched as soon as possible to reestablish vegetation and soil cover before the winter rains. These measures would eliminate the potential for sediment delivery to the North Umpqua River from the proposed action.

5. **Wild and Scenic Rivers** - The Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the North Umpqua River would be impacted, and the natural integrity of river related values would be maintained.

Agencies, Persons, and Permittees Consulted

US Fish and Wildlife Service

National Marine Fisheries Service

Preparers

Isaac Barner _____

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Archeology

Fisheries Biologist

Soil Scientist

Hydrologist

Wildlife Biologist

Recreation

Botany

Completed _____ 5/03/02 _____

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

The following elements of the human environment are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order (BLM NEPA Handbook, Appendix 5). These resources or values are either not present or would not be affected by the proposed actions or alternatives, unless otherwise described in this EA. This negative declaration is documented below by individuals who assisted in the preparation of this analysis.

Element	Responsible Position	Initials	Date	Remarks
Air Quality	Fuels Management Specialist	KC	5/07/02	Possible localized dust within project area
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Environmental Specialist	JSL	5/06/02	Project is not within or near an ACEC.
Cultural Resources	Archeologist	IB	5/06/02	Site cleared
Environmental Justice	Environmental Specialist	JSL	5/06/02	No disproportionate use by Native Americans, minorities or low-income populations.
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	Soil Scientist	DCC	5/06/02	"No discernable effects are anticipated" (PRMP pg. 1-7)
Flood Plains	Hydrologist	DD	5/13/02	
Invasive Nonnative Species	Botanist	RSW	5/07/02	
Native American Religious Concerns	Environmental Specialist	JSL	5/06/02	No concerns were noted from public contact
T&E Terrestrial Species	Wildlife Biologist	RM	5/06/02	No Effect
T&E Plant Species	Botanist	RSW	5/07/02	
T&E Aquatic Species	Fisheries Biologist	ACC	5/08/02	No Effect
Hazardous/Solid Wastes	Area Hazardous Materials Coordinator	LB	5/06/02	Applicable Haz Mat policies would be in effect.
Water Quality Drinking/Ground Water	Hydrologist	DD	5/13/02	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Hydrologist	DD	5/13/02	
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Recreation Planner	RM	5/07/02	Complies with North Umpqua River Plan.
Wilderness	Recreation Planner	RM	5/07/02	Project is not within a wilderness study area.

The following items are not considered a Critical Element but has been cited by regulation or executive order as an item warranting consideration in NEPA documents:

Healthy Lands Initiative - This project would not violate this initiative the Healthy Lands Initiative in that this project would be in compliance with the RMP which has been determined to be consistent with the standards and guidelines for healthy lands (43 CFR 4180.1) at the land use plan scale and associated time lines.

Adverse Energy - Executive Order 13212 provides that all decisions made by the Bureau of Land Management will take into consideration adverse impacts on the President's National Energy Policy. This project would not have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution and therefore would not adversely affect the President's National Energy Policy.